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Lourdine Florek  
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## **JUST the facts®**

**Wednesday, April 16, 1997**

Hooperston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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## **Hooperston officials pass no-frills \$6.67 million budget**

City employees will do no impulse buying this year.

The Hooperston city council Tuesday night approved a \$6,676,588 budget for 1997-98, up approximately \$226,000 from last year.

In preparing the budget, all one-time major purchases were eliminated, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, chairman of the city's finance committee.

Such things as new tractors and mowers were axed, Goodwine said, adding that half of the purchase price of those items will be set aside to buy them next year.

While delaying the purchase of the items is financially sound, the wait could cause problems later, Goodwine admitted. Regarding tractors, "that's what we plow snow with," he said. "If one breaks down, we'll hear about it."

Goodwine predicted some one-time purchases will be necessary during the year. "I expect some exceptions will be made," he said. "They should be emergency items if we do."

Additionally, \$40,000 was earmarked for future swimming pool repairs. Goodwine said the last major repairs of the pool, approximately 10 years ago, cost nearly \$500,000.

The budget also includes an across-the-board increase in salaries of approximately four percent, Goodwine said. While most employees will receive about that amount, some will receive more and some less. "There are exceptions every year," he said.

## **Sheriff's police investigate fatal accident south of Rossville**

An unidentified man was killed in a motorcycle accident Tuesday evening.

The man's identity had not been released at press time last night, pending notification of family.

The accident was reported at approximately 5:30 p.

Alderman John Haughee voted against the budget because he had questions regarding pay increases that were not answered prior to the vote.

In other business, the council:

accepted a bid from Silver Brothers for the sidewalk repair program. Voting against the bid - \$3.50 per square foot - were aldermen Dave Borders and Mike Eckersley.

"I just thought it was high," Borders said. "At \$3 a square foot (last year's price) that's \$300 for 50 feet. I just feel that's high."

Eckersley cited the high cost as well. "Every year, we pay more and more to (Silver Brothers)," he said, adding he would like to see more than one bid for the project.

tabled bids for perpetual care at Floral Hill Cemetery. Two bids were received, from Schuler's Flower Shop and Rhonda's Baskets.

Alderman Sue Comstock, cemetery committee chair, said the committee will review the bids at a committee meeting Friday morning and will accept a bid then.

discussed pending litigation during executive session. Alderman Harold Cox voted against the closed session and did not attend it.

learned trees are available for planting on city rights-of-way in residential areas.

Residents interested in participating in the program should call city hall at 283-5833.

Further details were unavailable at press time.

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## **VETERANS Do you know your benefits?**

A meeting will be held at the American Legion Post, 502 E. Penn, on Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. Come and find out about all of the VA's latest changes. You may be eligible for a benefit that you do not know about.

This meeting will be open to all veterans and it will be **FREE!** You do not need to be a member of the American Legion or any other veterans' organization.

A representative from the office of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs will be there to explain the changes to you.

Come early and meet the officers and members of the Legion and other veterans' groups.

Refreshments will be served.



